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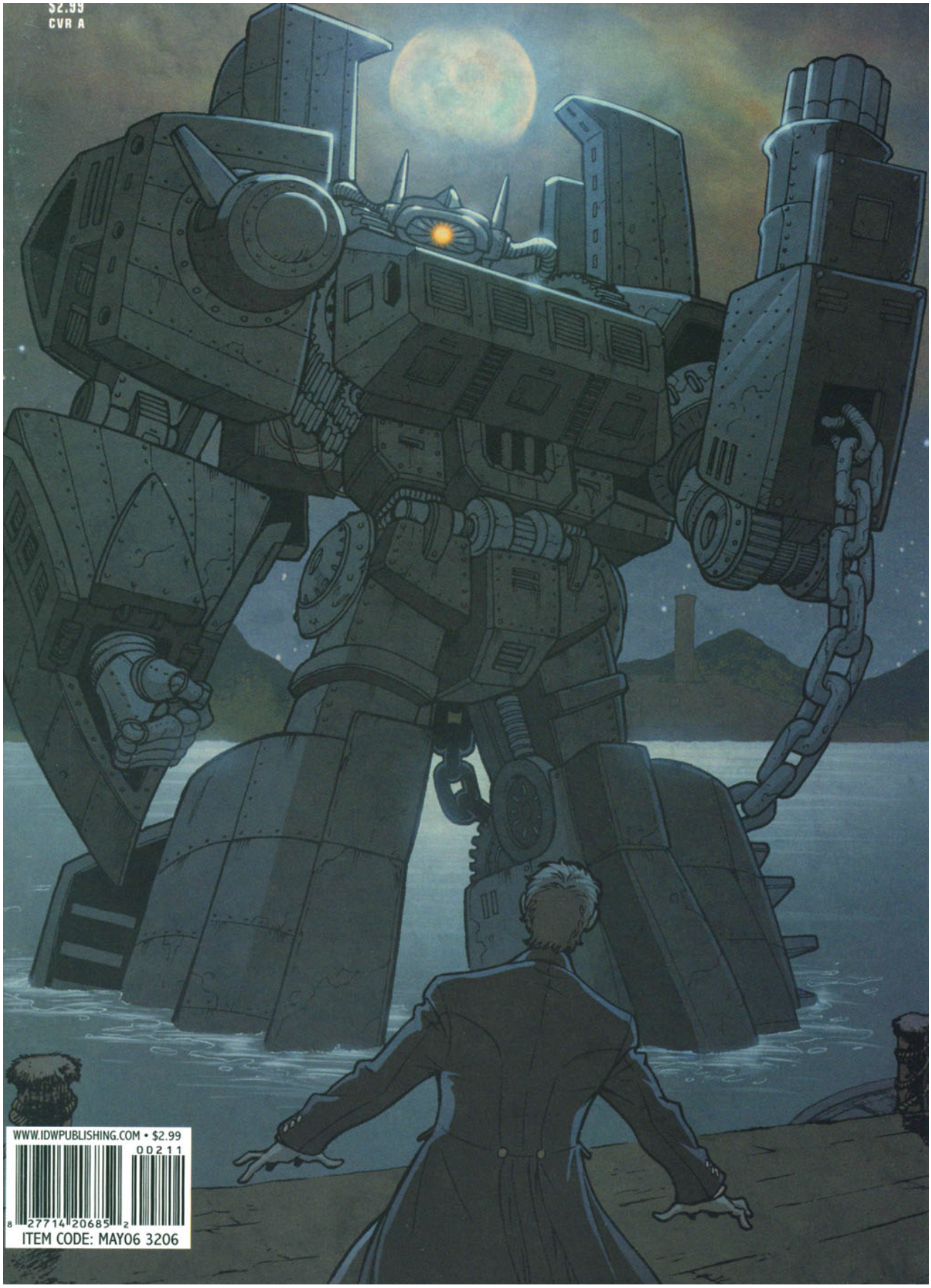
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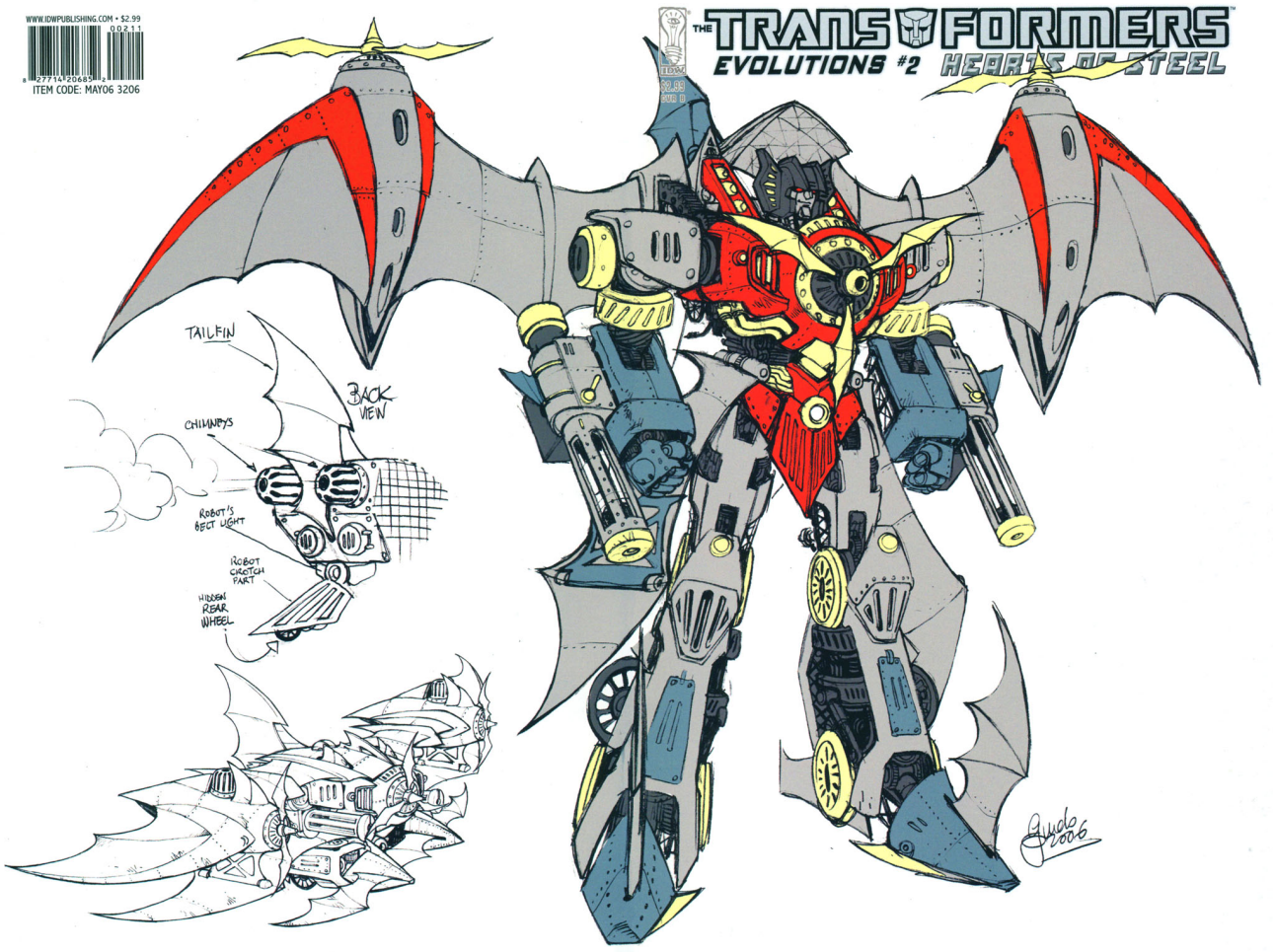

THE TRANSFORMERS: EVOLUTIONS #2 HEARTS OF STEEL

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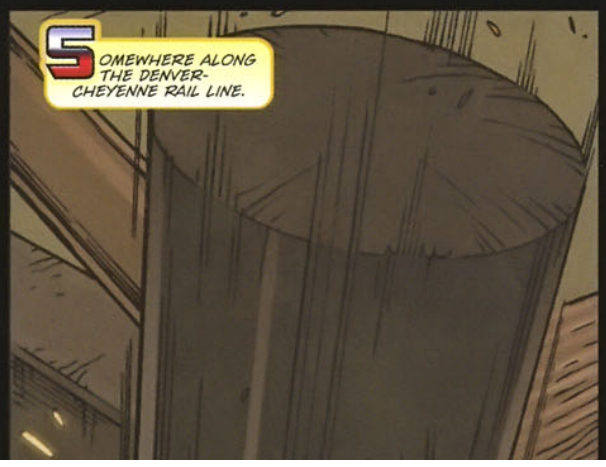
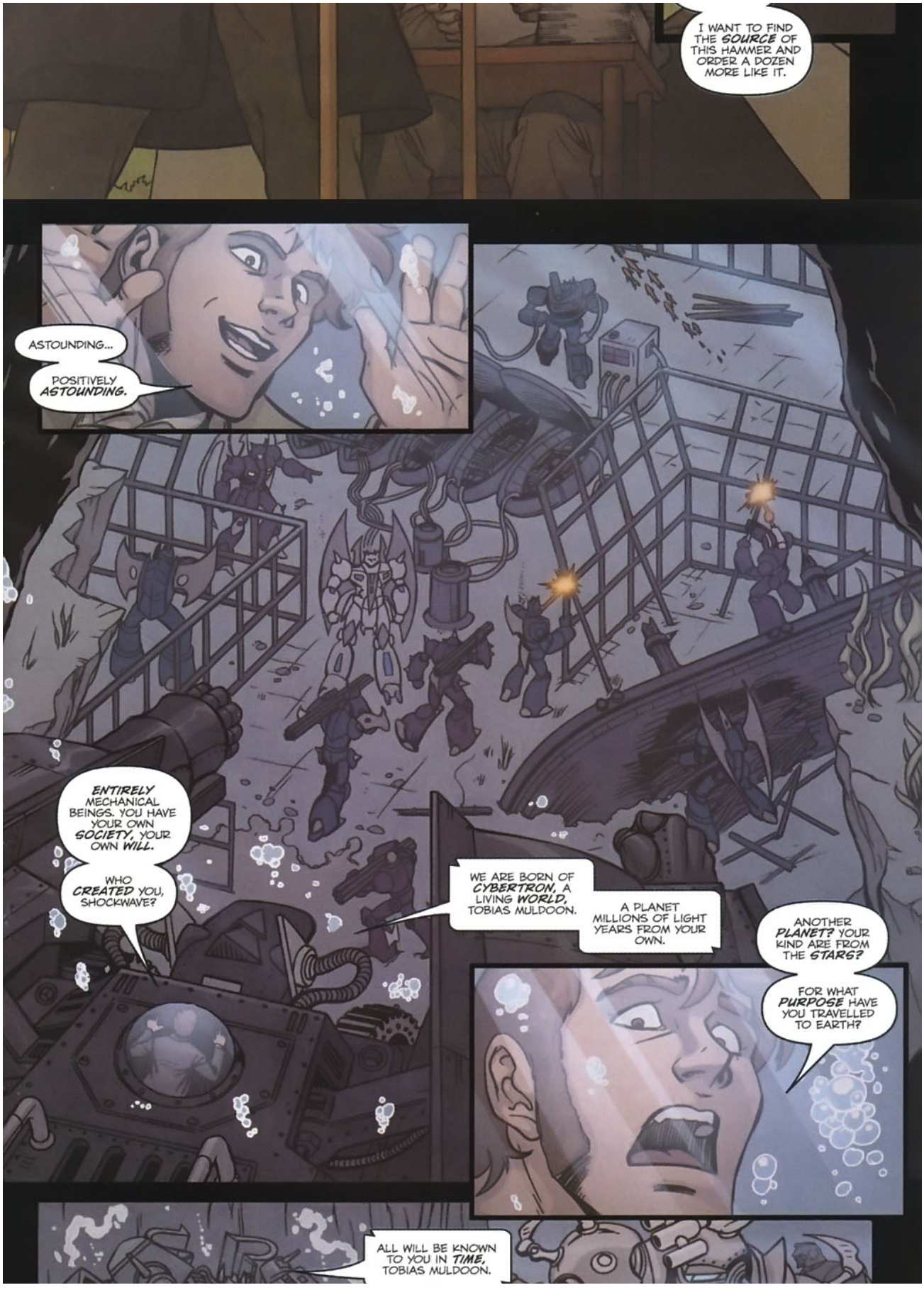


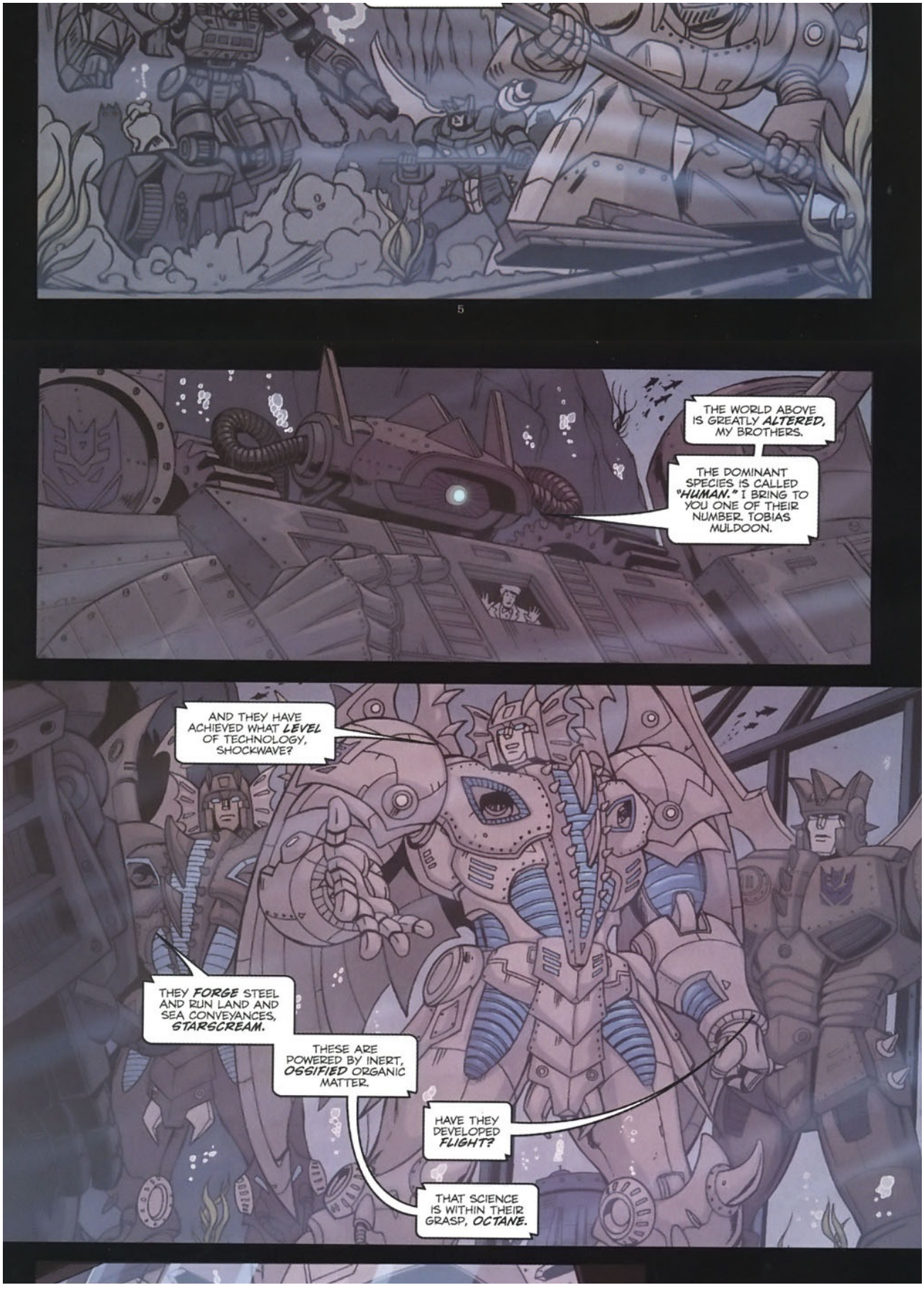
PUM
HUNH!
PUM
hsssst
PUM

THIS'LL MAKE A *PLEASURE* OF LAYIN' RAIL!
DANGEDEST THING I EVER *SEEN!*
TIRELESS, I TELL YOU!
IT'S A BLESSED *MARVEL,* IT IS!
IDIOTS.
hsssssst
PUM PUM
AIN'T THAT
IT'S *CHANGE,* BRAWLEY. CHANGE AIN'T *ALWAYS*

CONTRAPTION A SIGHT, JOHN HENRY?
DAGGED SMELLY PILE OF BOLTS, Y'ASK ME.
DON'T SWEAT OR GO HUNGRY OR GET PARCHED.
A WELCOME THING.
WHAT COULD BE WRONG? IT DOES ALL THE WORK FOR US, BIG JOHN!
THAT SO, BROTHER? I SEE MEN FETCHIN' WATER AND WOOD FOR IT.
LOOKS MORE LIKE WE'RE WORKIN' FOR IT INSTEAD OF THE OTHER WAY 'ROUND.
SAME WAYS WE FETCH YOU BISCUITS AND BEANS, JOHN HENRY?
NOW YOU DONE IT, CLETUS.
NO OFFENSE, BIG JOHN.
DON'T BE SWINGIN' THAT SLEDGE MY WAY, HEAR?

HA HA HAHA HA HA!
YOU BOYS SCRAPE UP SOME OF THEM BISCUITS AND BEANS, OKAY?
GIVE ME THE STEAM T'LEAVE THAT DEVIL'S DEVICE IN MY DUST!
COMIN' UP, BROTHER!
SMYTHE, HAVE YOU LEARNED ANYTHING OF THAT STEAM HAMMER THAT ARRIVED IN THE NIGHT?
UM, NOTHING, MISTER VANFLINT.
I'VE CHECKED SUPPLY MANIFESTS AND WORK ORDERS AND NO MENTION OF ANY SUCH MACHINE.
THEN WIRE SACRAMENTO, SMYTHE.


I WANT TO FIND THE SOURCE OF THIS HAMMER AND ORDER A DOZEN MORE LIKE IT.
ASTOUNDING...
POSITIVELY ASTOUNDING.
ENTIRELY MECHANICAL BEINGS. YOU HAVE YOUR OWN SOCIETY, YOUR OWN WILL.
WHO CREATED YOU, SHOCKWAVE?
WE ARE BORN OF CYBERTRON, A LIVING WORLD, TOBIAS MULDOON.
A PLANET MILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS FROM YOUR OWN.
ANOTHER PLANET? YOUR KIND ARE FROM THE STARS?
FOR WHAT PURPOSE HAVE YOU TRAVELLED TO EARTH?
ALL WILL BE KNOWN TO YOU IN TIME, TOBIAS MULDOON.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THE WORLD ABOVE IS GREATLY ALTERED, MY BROTHERS.
THE DOMINANT SPECIES IS CALLED "HUMAN." I BRING TO YOU ONE OF THEIR NUMBER. TOBIAS MULDOON.
AND THEY HAVE ACHIEVED WHAT LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY, SHOCKWAVE?
THEY FORGE STEEL AND RUN LAND AND SEA CONVEYANCES, STARSCREAM.
THESE ARE POWERED BY INERT, OSSIFIED ORGANIC MATTER.
HAVE THEY DEVELOPED FLIGHT?
THAT SCIENCE IS WITHIN THEIR GRASP, OCTANE.

ARE YOU CONVERSANT WITH THE TECHNOLOGY OF THIS WORLD, HUMAN?
I AM A SCIENTIST AND AN ENGINEER.
THEN YOU SHALL PLAY A PART IN OUR PLANS.
PLANS?
WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR PLANS?

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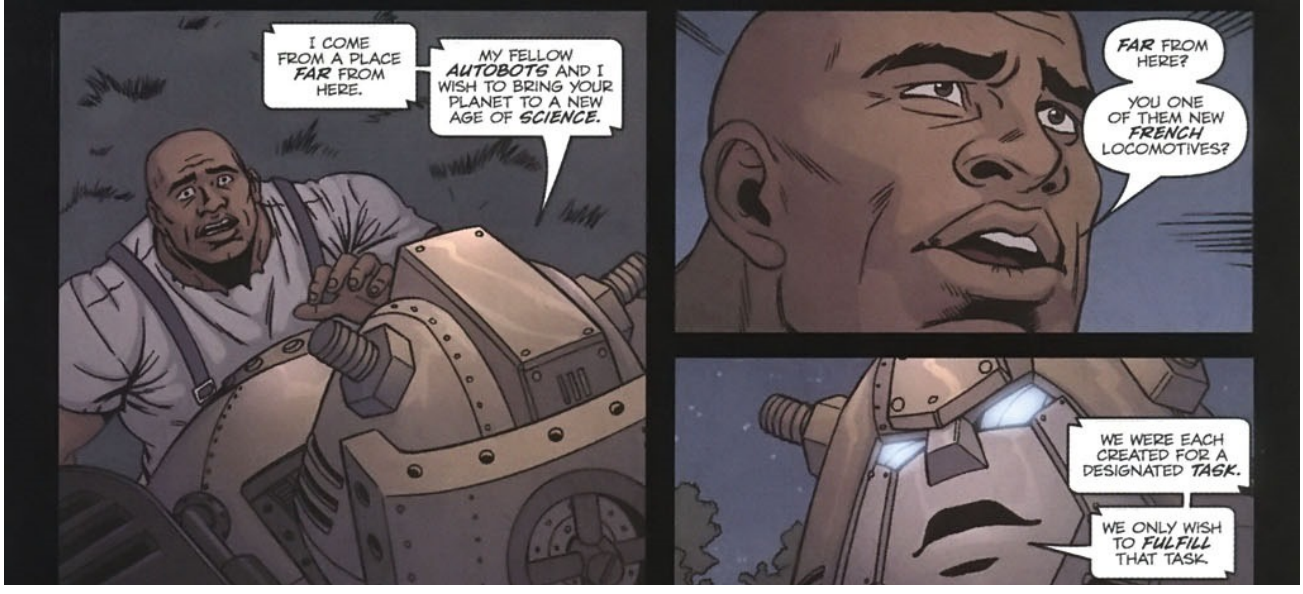
YOUR WORLD IS ON THE THRESHOLD OF GREAT ADVANCEMENTS.
MY FELLOW TRANSFORMERS AND I CAN HELP YOU, TOBIAS MULDOON, USHER YOUR PLANET INTO A NEW AGE.
IT WILL BE AN AGE COMBINING THE IMAGINATION OF MAN WITH THE POWER OF THE MACHINE.
GREAT CITIES OF LIGHT WITH EACH CITY JOINED BY HIGHWAYS OF STEEL.
AND ONE DAY SOON, YOUR KIND WILL REACH THE STARS AS WE HAVE.

THAT IS AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY TO BE SURE... UM... SIR. BUT MY WORLD RUNS ON MORE THAN COAL OR COKE.
MY WORK REQUIRES FUNDING. UNLESS YOU FELLOWS HAVE BROUGHT A GREAT DEAL OF CURRENCY WITH YOU—
CURRENCY?
TELL ME ABOUT THIS CONCEPT, TOBIAS MULDOON.
WELL, I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN HOW THE ECONOMY OF MY WORLD WORKS...
SO, EVER'BODY'S TELLING ME THAT YOU'RE THE FUTURE.
HUH.
STEEL AND STEAM ARE NO REPLACEMENT FOR MUSCLE AND SWEAT.
NEVER WILL BE.

I'M NOT HERE TO REPLACE YOU, JOHN HENRY.
WHO SAID THAT?
MY NAME IS BUMBLEBEE.
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU, TO HELP ALL MANKIND.
LORD A'MIGHTY!
I MUST BE SUNSTRUCK!


I COME FROM A PLACE FAR FROM HERE.
MY FELLOW AUTOBOTS AND I WISH TO BRING YOUR PLANET TO A NEW AGE OF SCIENCE.
FAR FROM HERE?
YOU ONE OF THEM NEW FRENCH LOCOMOTIVES?
WE WERE EACH CREATED FOR A DESIGNATED TASK.
WE ONLY WISH TO FULFILL THAT TASK.

YOU JUST WANT TO *WORK*?
WELL, I CAN RESPECT *ANYONE* WHO WANTS TO *EARN* HIS OWN WAY. MAN *OR* MACHINE.
PUT 'ER *THERE*, FRIEND.
THERE?
SHAKE THE HAND OF A *HAMMERIN'* MAN, BUMBLEBEE.
THANK YOU, JOHN HENRY.

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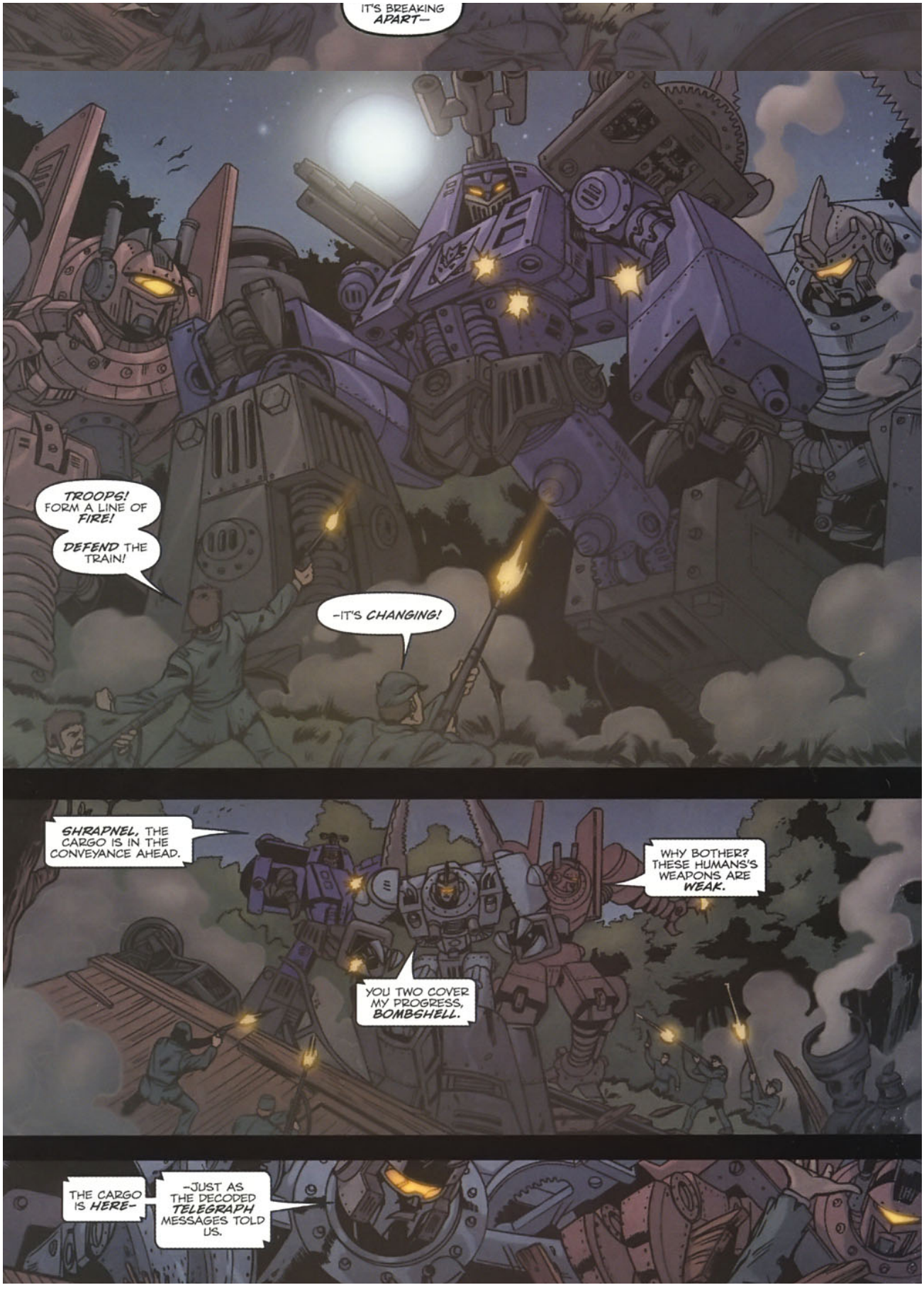
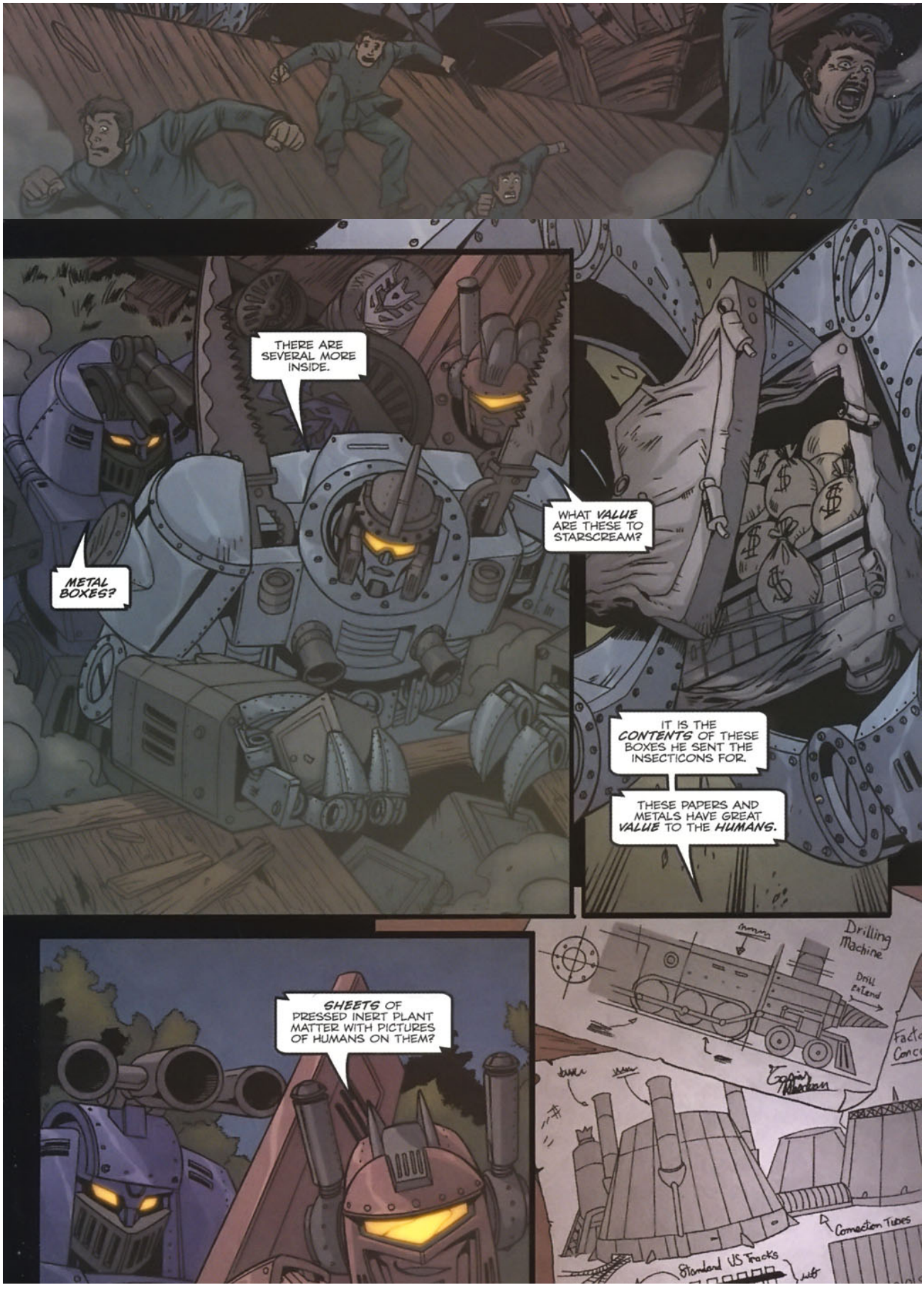
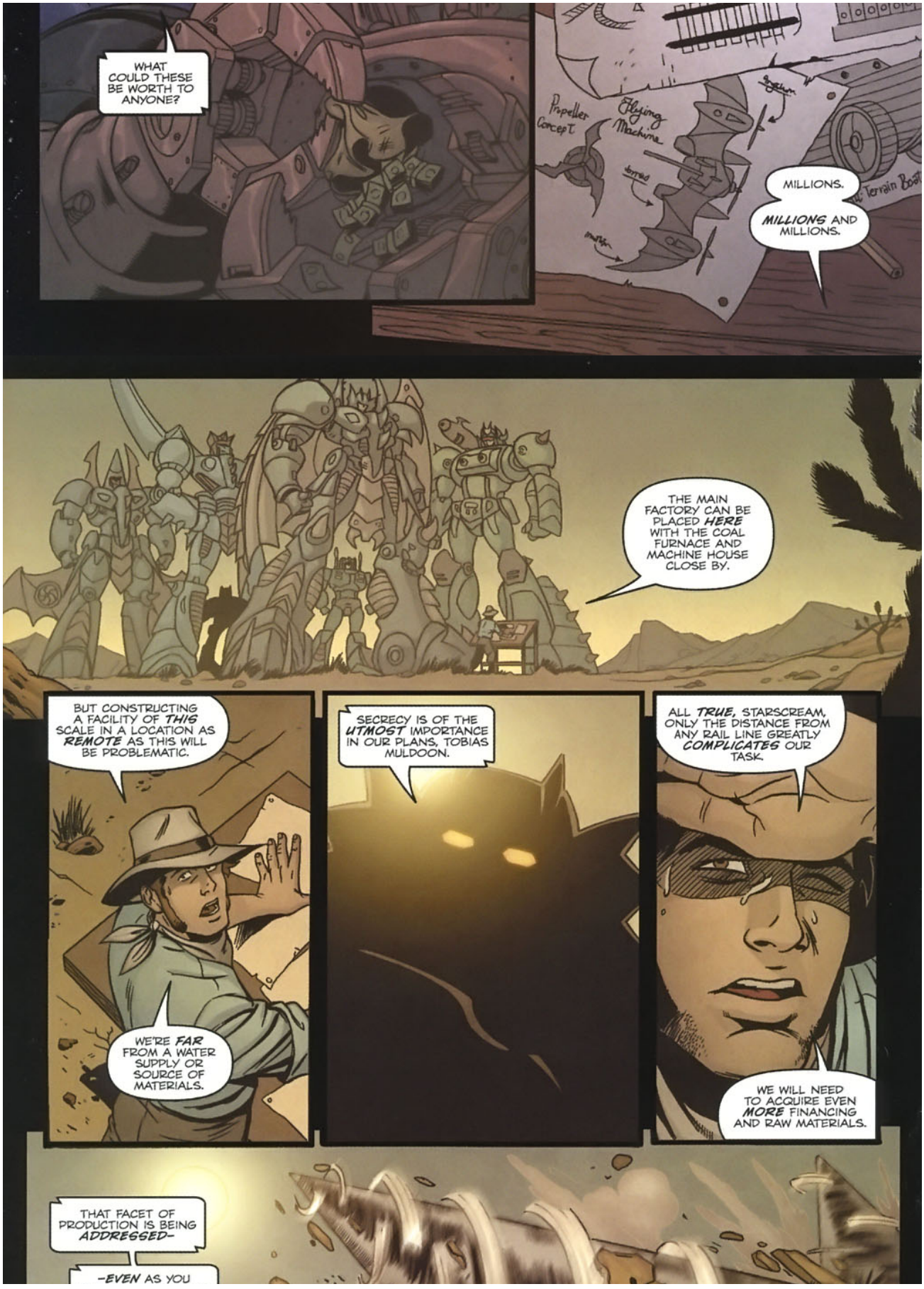
MORE CASH AND BULLION THAN YOU'LL SEE IN A LIFETIME, ABNER.
THEM CARS WAS LOADED AT THE MINT IN DENVER.
WELL, WE GET A RIDE TO CALIFORNIA OUT OF IT, I GUESS.
TROOPER! PUT THAT STOGIE OUT!
WE'RE RUNNING DARK FOR SECURITY'S SAKE.
DANG FOOL. WHO'D HAVE THE SAND TO ROB A FEDERAL SHIPMENT?
ABNER! LOOK DOWN THE TRACKS!
A TRAIN HIGH-BALLIN' RIGHT FOR US!

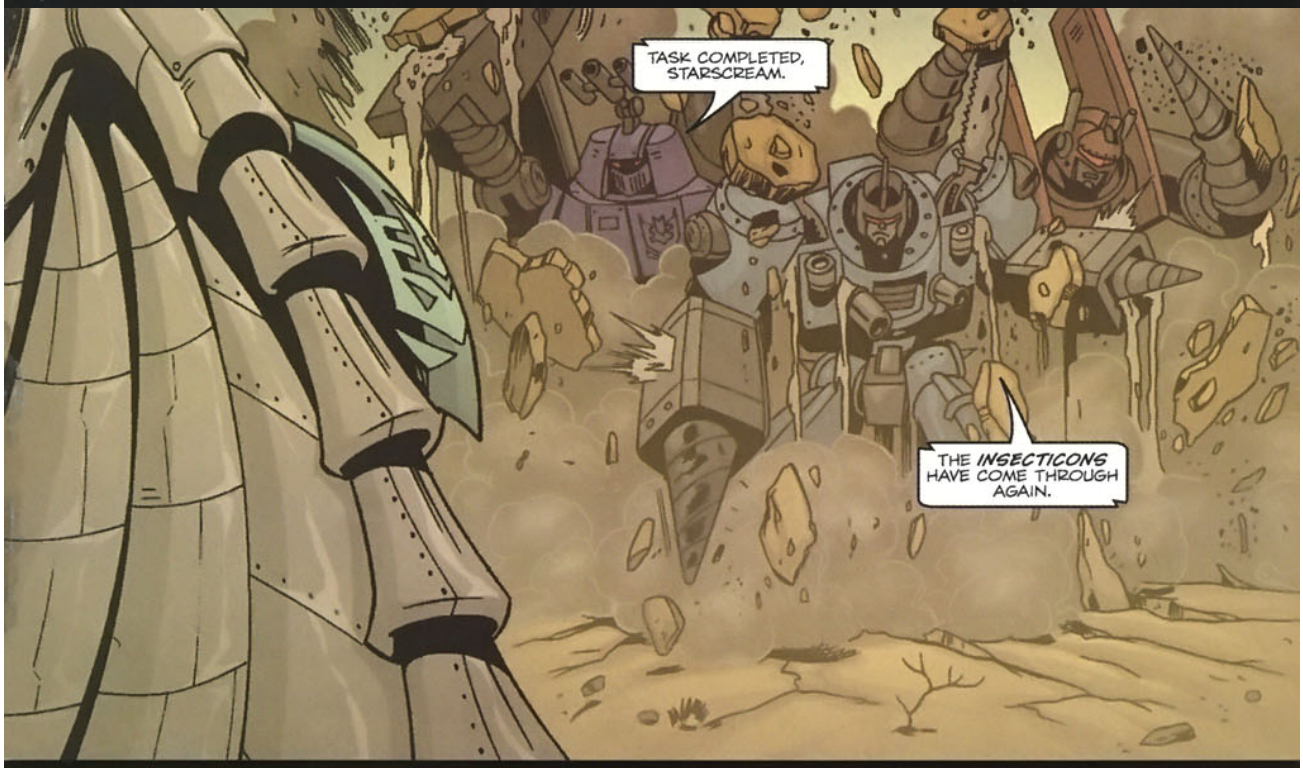
CHK CHK CHK
WHAMM
THESE TRACKS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE *CLEAR* ALL THE WAY TO *SACRAMENTO!*
IT AIN'T *BREAKIN'*, ABNER–
THE *LOCOMOTIVE*–


IT'S BREAKING APART—
TROOPS! FORM A LINE OF FIRE!
DEFEND THE TRAIN!
—IT'S CHANGING!
SHRAPNEL, THE CARGO IS IN THE CONVEYANCE AHEAD.
WHY BOTHER? THESE HUMANS'S WEAPONS ARE WEAK.
YOU TWO COVER MY PROGRESS, BOMBSHELL.
THE CARGO IS HERE—
—JUST AS THE DECODED TELEGRAPH MESSAGES TOLD US.

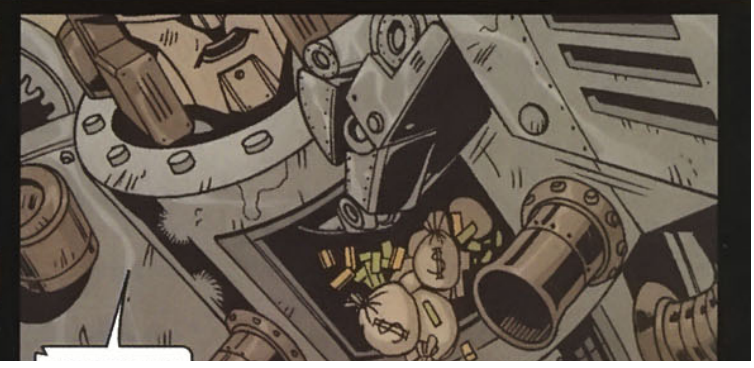

THERE ARE SEVERAL MORE INSIDE.
METAL BOXES?
WHAT VALUE ARE THESE TO STARSCREAM?
IT IS THE CONTENTS OF THESE BOXES HE SENT THE INSECTICONS FOR.
THESE PAPERS AND METALS HAVE GREAT VALUE TO THE HUMANS.
SHEETS OF PRESSED INERT PLANT MATTER WITH PICTURES OF HUMANS ON THEM?
Drilling Machine
Drill Extend
Connection Tubes
Standard US Trucks


WHAT COULD THESE BE WORTH TO ANYONE?
Propeller Concept
Flying Machine
MILLIONS.
MILLIONS AND MILLIONS.
THE MAIN FACTORY CAN BE PLACED HERE WITH THE COAL FURNACE AND MACHINE HOUSE CLOSE BY.
BUT CONSTRUCTING A FACILITY OF THIS SCALE IN A LOCATION AS REMOTE AS THIS WILL BE PROBLEMATIC.
WE'RE FAR FROM A WATER SUPPLY OR SOURCE OF MATERIALS.
SECRECY IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN OUR PLANS, TOBIAS MULDOON.
ALL TRUE, STARSCREAM. ONLY THE DISTANCE FROM ANY RAIL LINE GREATLY COMPLICATES OUR TASK.
WE WILL NEED TO ACQUIRE EVEN MORE FINANCING AND RAW MATERIALS.
THAT FACET OF PRODUCTION IS BEING ADDRESSED-
-EVEN AS YOU

AND I SPEAK, TOBIAS MULDOON.


TASK COMPLETED, STARSCREAM.
THE INSECTICONS HAVE COME THROUGH AGAIN.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, STARSCREAM.



WHAT TASK HAS BEEN COMPLETED?
WE BRING THE GOODS YOU REQUIRE.
STACKS OF PAPER AND METAL BARS.
WHUH–WHERE DID YOU COME UPON THIS FORTUNE?
IT'S MORE MONEY THAN I'VE EVER SEEN IN ONE PLACE.
I HOPE IT IS ENOUGH TO BEGIN OUR OPERATIONS.
WHEN YOU RUN LOW, I WILL ACQUIRE MORE, TOBIAS MULDOON.

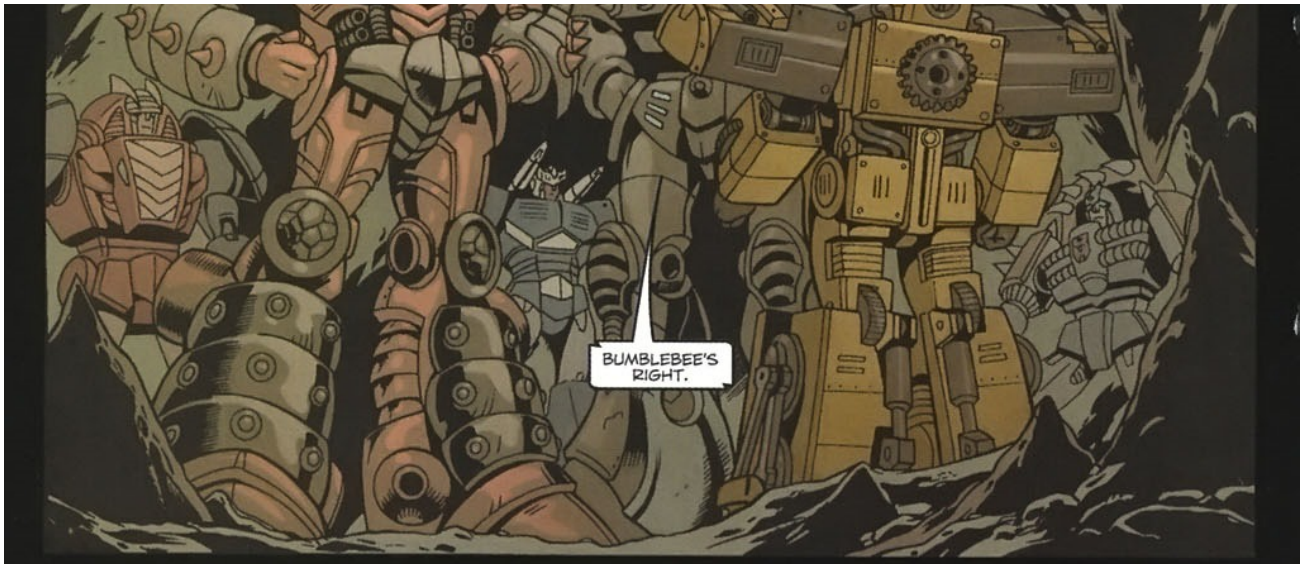
TELL ME I'VE NOT GONE MAD.
WHO WOULD ORDER TWENTY WAGONS OF GOODS BROUGHT TO THIS GODFORSAKEN PLACE?
IF THIS SHIPMENT WERE NOT PAID FOR IN ADVANCE, I'D SAY WE WERE ON A FOOL'S ERRAND.
BLESS ME, IF THAT AIN'T A RAILHEAD AFORE US.

ARE YOU MISTER TOBIAS MULDOON?
I AM, SIR.
HAVE YOUR MEN UNLOAD THEIR FREIGHT HERE.
YOU'VE ENOUGH LUMBER AND STEEL HERE T'BUILD A TOWN.
IS THAT YOUR AIM, MISTER MULDOON?
OF A SORT.

GOLD TRAIN SEIZED BY CRIMINAL CABAL
GOLLEEEEE, NED...
THE RAILROAD WAS ROBBED OF A MILLION DOLLARS IN GOLD AND CASH.
IT WAS AN ARMY TRAIN HEADING FOR SACRAMENTO.

WHO'D HAVE THE GALL TO HOLD UP AN ARMY TRAIN?
SOLDIERS SAID THE TRAIN WAS ATTACKED BY MACHINES.
THEY SAID A BIG, OLD LOCOMOTIVE TURNED INTO SOME KIND OF STEEL MONSTERS.
HAW! THOSE TROOPERS MUSTA BEEN DRUNKER THAN SKUNKS.
YOU EVER HEARD OF ANYTHIN' LIKE THAT, JOHN HENRY?
ENGINES TURNIN' INTO STEEL MONSTERS?
NOPE. SOUNDS LIKE BOOSHWAH TO ME.

DECEPTICONS.
IT HAS TO BE DECEPTICONS.
IF THEY'VE AWAKENED, WE CAN ONLY WONDER HOW LONG THEY'VE BEEN ACTIVE.
JOHN HENRY WAS SURPRISED AT SEEING ME. I'D GUESS TRANSFORMERS ARE NEW TO THIS WORLD.



IF MEGATRON AND HIS KIND WERE RE-ACTIVATED FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME, THIS WORLD WOULD BOW TO MEGATRON.
THAT STILL DOESN'T EXCUSE BUMBLEBEE EXPOSING HIMSELF TO A HUMAN.

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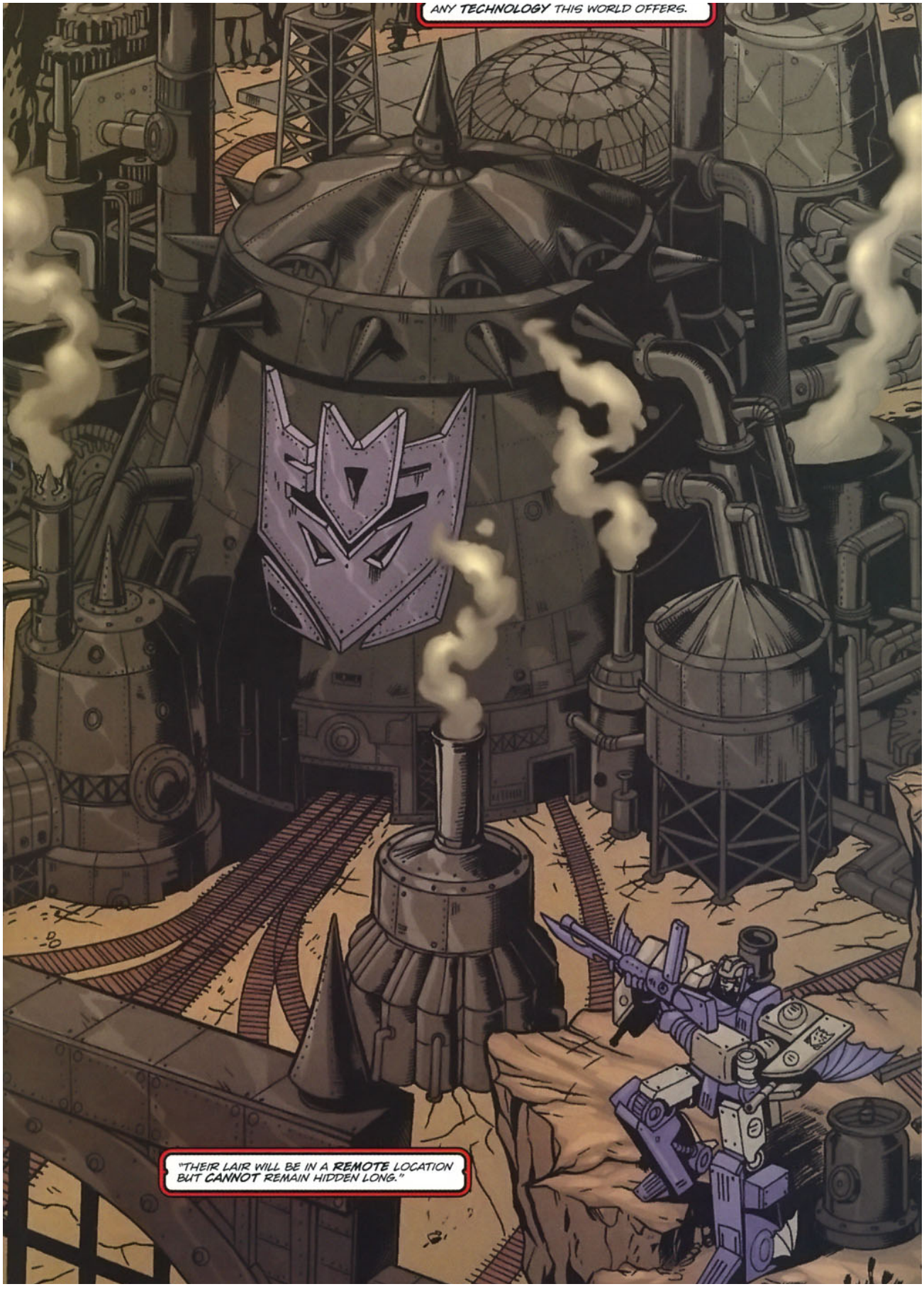
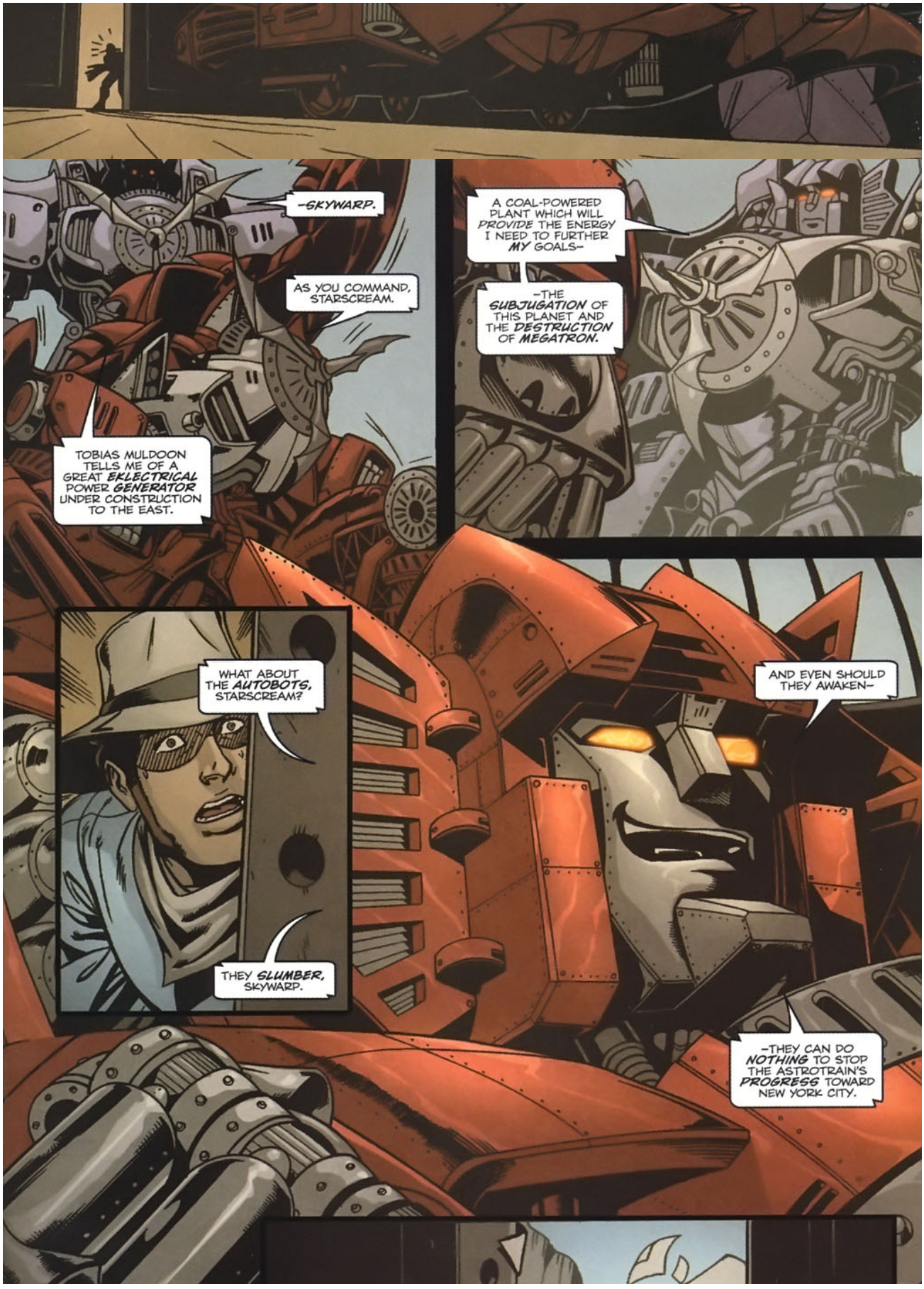
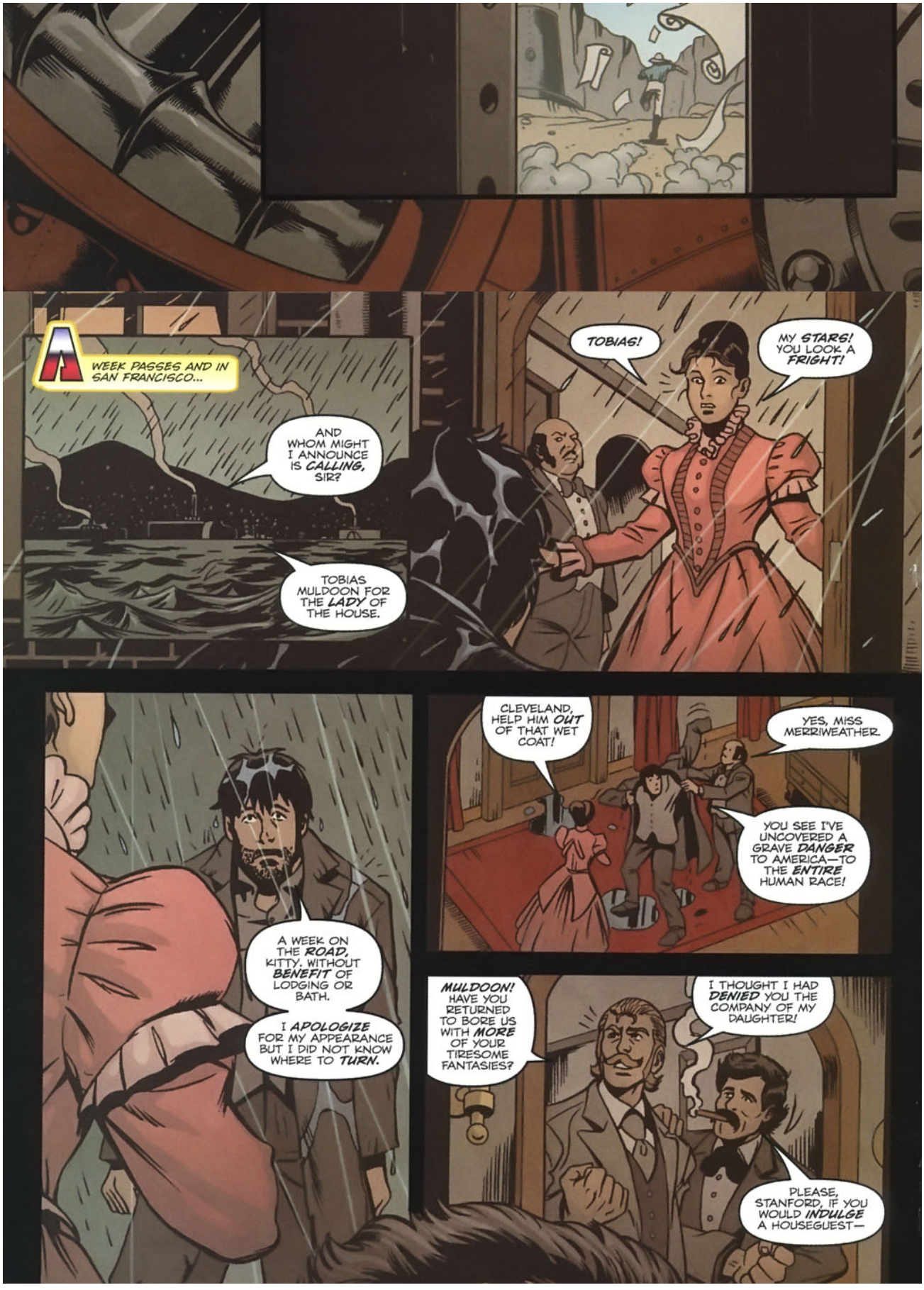

ANY TECHNOLOGY THIS WORLD OFFERS.
"THEIR LAIR WILL BE IN A REMOTE LOCATION BUT CANNOT REMAIN HIDDEN LONG."

"THEIR VERY INDUSTRIOUS WAYS WILL BETRAY THEM."
THIS IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF MY PLANS FOR EARTH-
THE FOOL, TOBIAS MULDDON, HAS SUPPLIED US WITH HIS PLANS FOR FLYING CRAFT.
A FLEETOF WINGED DECEPTICONS WILL SERVE AS SCOUTS.
YOU WILL FLY THE PATH AHEAD OF THE ASTROTRAIN. YOU WILL LEAD THE WAY-


-SKYWARP.
AS YOU COMMAND, STARSCREAM.
TOBIAS MULDOON TELLS ME OF A GREAT *EKLECTRICAL* POWER *GENERATOR* UNDER CONSTRUCTION TO THE EAST.
A COAL-POWERED PLANT WHICH WILL *PROVIDE* THE ENERGY I NEED TO FURTHER *MY* GOALS-
-THE *SUBJUGATION* OF THIS PLANET AND THE *DESTRUCTION* OF *MEGATRON*.
WHAT ABOUT THE *AUTOBOTS*, STARSCREAM?
THEY *SLUMBER*, SKYWARP.
AND EVEN SHOULD THEY AWAKEN-
-THEY CAN DO *NOTHING* TO STOP THE ASTROTRAIN'S *PROGRESS* TOWARD NEW YORK CITY.


A WEEK PASSES AND IN SAN FRANCISCO...
AND WHOM MIGHT I ANNOUNCE IS CALLING, SIR?
TOBIAS MULDOON FOR THE LADY OF THE HOUSE.
TOBIAS!
MY STARS! YOU LOOK A FRIGHT!
A WEEK ON THE ROAD, KITTY. WITHOUT BENEFIT OF LODGING OR BATH.
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY APPEARANCE BUT I DID NOT KNOW WHERE TO TURN.
CLEVELAND, HELP HIM OUT OF THAT WET COAT!
YES, MISS MERRIWEATHER.
YOU SEE I'VE UNCOVERED A GRAVE DANGER TO AMERICA—TO THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE!
MULDOON! HAVE YOU RETURNED TO BORE US WITH MORE OF YOUR TIRESOME FANTASIES?
I THOUGHT I HAD DENIED YOU THE COMPANY OF MY DAUGHTER!
PLEASE, STANFORD, IF YOU WOULD INDULGE A HOUSEGUEST—

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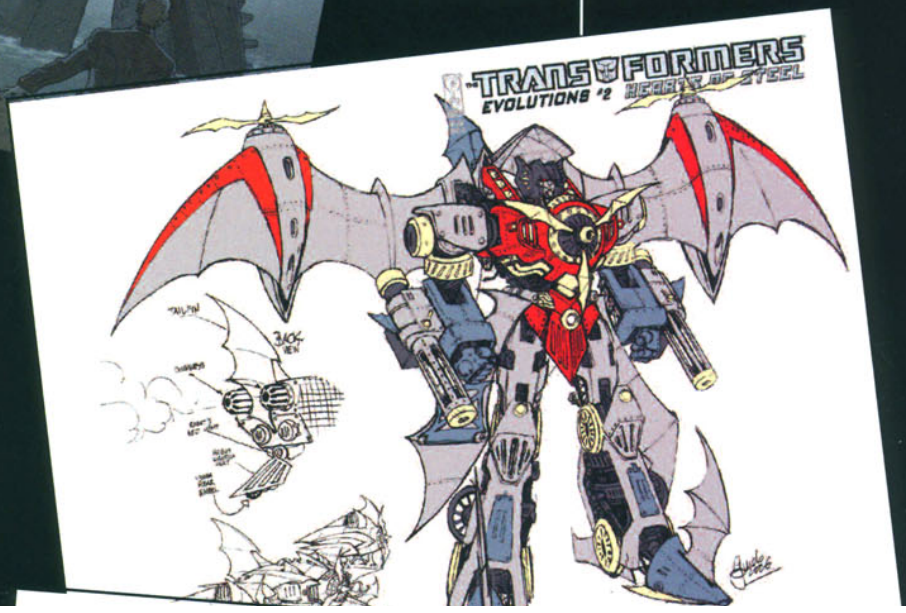
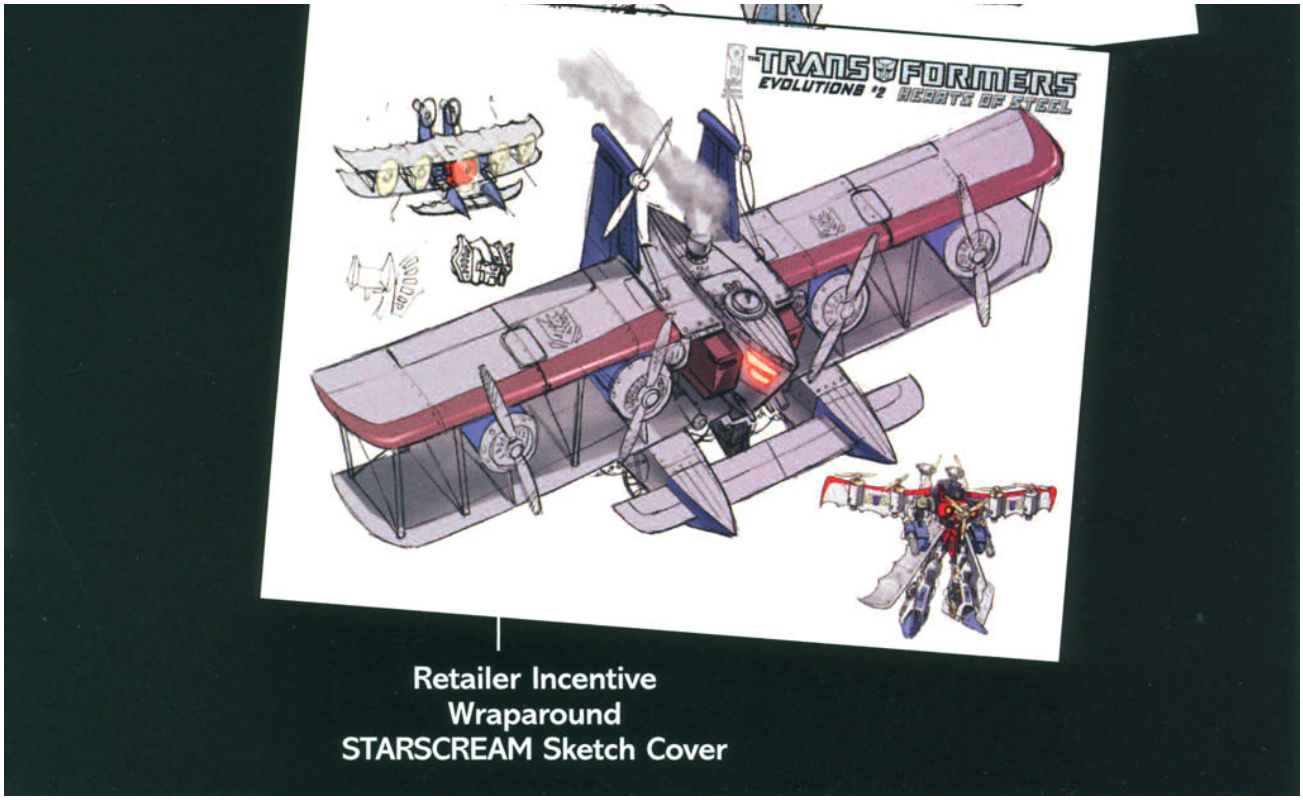
STARSCREAM Sketch Cover





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